

Dear Neighbors:

There is a gem in your neighborhood, the Lake Calavera Preserve. The main purpose of this preserve is to protect native plants and animals. But it is also a place where you can get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life; a place to walk your dog or go bird watching; a place to go for a run or a bike ride; or simply a place for quiet contemplation. We have prepared this trail map and FAQ to inform you of upcoming activities, to help answer some of your questions, and to encourage you to help us protect this wonderful resource.



City of Carlsbad

There seems to be a lot of activity in the Lake Calavera Preserve these days. What's going on?

Yes, a lot of different things are happening! The [Center for Natural Lands Management](#) (CNLM) was hired in January 2009 by the City to manage the preserve. CNLM is partnering with the City to install fencing, signs, and information kiosks; fix trails; close unauthorized trails; conduct plant and animal surveys; and remove invasive plant species. CNLM will be performing this work in accordance with the recently completed [Lake Calavera Trails Master Plan](#). This plan, which identifies authorized trails and trail improvements, was developed by the Department of Parks and Recreation with input from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association, Preserve Calavera, and residents. Other activities include several [habitat restoration](#) projects, which will restore a total of eight acres (in five locations) of disturbed areas back to natural habitat, providing homes to numerous native plant and animal species. You can identify the restoration areas by the orange construction fencing. It can take up to five years for restored areas to become self-sustaining, so please help us protect these areas!

What is the main purpose of Lake Calavera Preserve?

Lake Calavera Preserve was set aside to conserve natural lands for the protection of native plants and wildlife. Recreational activities, such as hiking and mountain biking, are conditionally allowed, but must be compatible with habitat and species protection.

Why do I have to stay on designated trails?

When hikers and bikers go off trail, it damages native plants, compacts the soil, and causes erosion. This reduces the quality of the open space, which is home to many native plants and animals. Because native plants are slow-growing, it takes a very long time for the natural lands to recover once it has been damaged.



Why can't I let my dog run free?

Dogs often scare or kill native animals, especially birds. This may cause a disruption in breeding by causing nest abandonment. Nest abandonment means no babies; no babies means that the bird

population may not be able to sustain itself. It is also important to pick up your dog's poop. Dog poop is not the same as the poop of native animals! Dogs can transmit disease, such as E. coli, through their feces and urine, which can wash into the lake during a heavy rain.

Why should I keep my cat indoors?

Each cat can kill hundreds of native birds and, like dogs, they can disrupt bird breeding behavior, resulting in population decline. And remember, coyotes eat cats!

What is habitat restoration and why is it important?

Habitat restoration consists of removing invasive non-native plants, de-compacting the soil, and planting or seeding a disturbed area with a specified "palette" of native plant species that is characteristic of a certain plant community (e.g., coastal sage scrub). Restoration reduces habitat fragmentation; provides foraging and breeding areas for wildlife; and protects water quality of the lake by reducing erosion and sedimentation, and by filtering out contaminants before they reach the waterways.



What kind of volunteer opportunities are there?

There are lots of opportunities to become involved! Some examples include trail maintenance, such as erosion repair, pruning, trimming, graffiti removal, and litter removal. Habitat enhancement projects may include invasive species removal and native plant seeding. Other projects include installing trail amenities, such as signage, benches, and kiosks. For more information, call (760) 434-2826, or visit www.carlsbadca.gov.



LAKE CALAVERA PRESERVE

Proposed Lake Calavera Trails Master Plan

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Lake Calavera Preserve Boundary
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Proposed Lake Calavera Trails:
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Type A - Hikers/Bicyclists 10' - 12' wide
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Existing Water District/SDG&E Rd.
- 

Type B - Hikers/Bicyclists, 4' - 8' wide
- 

Type C - Hikers/Bicyclists, 2' - 4' wide
- 

Boardwalk
- 

Trail Amenities:
- 

Access Point
- 

Information Kiosk
- 

View Point / Interpretive Signage
- 

Litter Receptacle / Dog Waste Station
- 

Picnic Table
- 

Portable Restroom

The Trails Plan is in draft form as of the printing date of this brochure (12/31/09). The plan includes installation of kiosks, signage, litter receptacles, dog waste stations, a picnic table, portable restroom, boardwalk sections, and habitat restoration. The plan also includes closure of unauthorized trails and fencing to direct users onto authorized trails.

